

No. 1819

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JAPAN seems to have "infectious competition" in the proposals for the Yokohama exhibition. It is anxious to start a Japanese exhibition with all seriousness, and with a preference to the American exhibition on account of the success of the former.

"The Japanese are a progressive race, and consequently be the advantages of the exhibition would have, no acquaintance to the foreign goods as regards the market. A show would be of their own country."

Says the *Java* certain that it adds that China, to assist India might be likely staple and in this thing more than in the enterprising sanguine of the however, as are he would be pronounced it expect to see hence to Yok the erection of that port.

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To the Editor

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On the evening of the 10th inst. the *Wemyss Castle* sailed for the Pacific. The Law Division of the Admiralty has issued orders that all ships shall carry a certificate as to the health of the crew upon those who are in the most dangerous situations.

This being the case, it will be one-sided, without consulting the authorities to whom it is due, and its vindication will be a ship to be cleaved in two. Mute, because the contract is vitiated. The possession of the Articles of

Master by authority
 ship is not man
 Signed by
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DEAR SIR,—
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P.S.—I shall
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C. A. SAINT, Esq.
DEAR SIR,—
Harbour Master
Your's faithfully

7th April, 1880

The Government
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particularly requested that any matter relating to the general paper be addressed to the Editor, and in no case to individuals by delay and inconvenience in the business will thereby be

RESPONDENTS.

are open to all who wish to on legitimate grounds, but otherwise responsible for the correspondence.

communications addressed to this paper, and by the name of the party for publication, but as no fault.

CHINA MAIL.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1869.

HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY.

considerable interest was recent meeting held to the occasion of the Hong Kong Branch of the Asiatic Society to have been done in the station. The small library, it remains in the hands of who, for some insupportable feel at liberty to take cards getting it accommodated. It is said that in Colony members of the or at least residents to one time figured on the as our enquiries have would appear that they are their status, having for to pay any subscription, facts which seem clear are a certain number of or less injured condition Society, and that nothing with them because nobody to claim an interest in. At the meeting lately solved to communicate "existing members" and learn if they still lives connected with it, this communication has are unaware, but nothing public respecting it. It efforts have been made to with former members now it, if such be the case, we would be as a simple waste to care for here should in the powers of a member doing the appropriation of belonging to a society so sent upon the local interest

thus a sort of deadlock, that some definite be decided upon by the only person with whom of moving in the matter, communicate with the line members, if there and upon receiving their general meeting of all in the resuscitation of the present interest was the ex-members the sole disposing of the books, lie with the secretary protest as to further (see close) would naturally over either to the public simple contribution of so or to the newly constituted, if such were organized, be taken by the latter case be exceedingly simple of the annual subscription member could be set apart of the books—some 200 to number—and as soon as this volumes would be afforded immediate accommodation. The completion would also afford the for meetings and the city would start with two fully fulfilled.

repeatedly remarked that even resuscitated there would its flourishing at Hong Kong. Our opinion we think arises as idea as to the function to fulfil. If it is to non that lengthy papers at each meeting we admit are not encouraging, seem to us that unless right forward in greater present supplies likely, very three months would time for their reading, in volume the interest reading might find it that we desire to apply meetings of such a highly instructive and not necessarily including only essays—valuable as read at the Shanghai are. Many hard some across difficult or facts may be quite reasonably, who would be held if required to put in form. It would of say that the secretary had with a short written of the subject mentioned, but there would be a elegant this and a formal the constitution of the city—how we are sanguine accomplished feat before are over—it would be for suggestions until we

earn whether the old society is to be considered as existing or extinct. We may however state that we have good authority for believing that H. E. the Governor is disposed to take a warm interest in any scheme for reorganizing or reconstituting the Hongkong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. With but a short period to wait before suitable museum and library accommodation will be readily accessible, it would seem a great pity that any further delay should take place.

JAPAN seems to have caught the "Exhibition" infection, if we may judge from the proposals recently made in some Yokohama exchanges. The proposition to start a Japan Exhibition is made in all seriousness, and the writers give the preference to Japan over China "on account of the more enterprising spirit of the former over the latter."

"The Japanese are as a nation a more progressive race than the Chinese, and are consequently better fitted for understanding the advantages that such an institution would have, not only as regards the general acquaintance that would be obtained of foreign goods and manufactures, but also as regards the beneficial influence that such a show would have upon the products of their own country."

Says the *Japan Herald*, and we are not certain that it is far wrong. It further adds that China would be of course invited to assist in the undertaking, whilst India might find amongst her produce a likely staple for the Japanese market, and in this case we should have something more than a sentimental interest in the enterprise. We are scarcely so sanguine of the success of such a scheme, however, as are our friends in Japan. But he would be very rash who in 1869 pronounced it impracticable, though we expect to see a telegraphic cable laid hence to Yokohama before we witness the erection of an exhibition building at that port.

The case of *Regina v. Saint* is not to be carried before the Privy Council formally. But it has gone to Earl Granville, the Secretary for the Colonies, to presume for advice as to what shall be done with it. The nature of the answer may be very confidently anticipated. It is not given to every Governor to meet with such an unhappy conjunction of circumstances as those which afflict Sir Richard MacDonnell. Just while he is in the thick of the unpleasant controversy about the gambling revenue, there will be presented the other astonishing blunder to which he committed his government. How gratifying these things must be to the unofficial members! There was one of their number who raised his voice against the first blunder, but all of them seem to have sympathized with the last—in their "representative" capacities, that is, whatever may be their private opinions.

MERCANTILE MARINE "LAW" IN HONGKONG.

We print the following correspondence without comment to-day, beyond directing attention to the Harbour Master's extraordinary note—

April 7, 1869.
To the Editor of the "CHINA MAIL."
Sir,—With your permission we will state that which we consider an abuse, the merchants and underwriters of this port being interested in the matter equally with ourselves.

By its appearance in the columns of the *China Mail*, the Chamber of Commerce may be induced to look into the question.

On the 6th current the master of the British ship *Wemyss Castle* discharged the Mate of that ship at the Shipping Office. On the 6th he looked at the certificate and references of an officer who had been out of employment since the 28th of December, a resident in the Sailor's Home, and in debt to that Institution. On being referred by this officer to Messrs Brierley & Co. as local referees, the master replied "It is all right, consider yourself engaged and get ready to go on board."

On the evening of the same date the *Wemyss Castle* sailed hence without a certificate of Mate.

The Law directs that all Foreign-going Ships shall carry Mates and Masters duly certificated as competent; this it imposes upon those who desire to hold these responsible situations the obligation of passing an examination for which fees are exacted.

This being the case, as a contract cannot be one-sided, we would ask—"How do the authorities to whom is confided the Law and its vindication when broken, permit a ship to be cleared without a certificated Mate, because while this is permitted, the contract is violated?"

The possession of Certificates is useless if the Articles of a Ship are returned to the Master by authorities who know that the ship is not manned as required by Law.

Signed by
MASTER MARINERS.
London, 1224.
Singapore, 274.
Glasgow, 26,332.

China Mail Office, April 7, 1869.
W. S. LORING, Esq.
DEAR SIR,—Will you be kind enough to inform me whether both mates of the *Wemyss Castle*, which sailed hence on the 6th, were duly certificated? A statement has been made to me that one was not.

I am desirous to prevent the currency of such a statement if it is not true, and I apply to you as the best authority on the subject, remaining yours faithfully
C. A. SAINT, Esq.
DEAR SIR,—I have referred your letter to Harbour Master, and answer other side.—Yours faithfully
W. S. LORING.
7th April, 1869.

The Government has no control over the numbers of officers, or crews, or their qualifications, unless they are supplied at

this Port, when in the case of British ships we insist on officers being duly qualified. Indenture Officers, or Surveyors for them, report to their employers in such matters to give or withhold Insurance as they may think proper. There is no law to regulate the numbers of officers or men carried by British ships; it is perfectly optional on the part of the owners and masters.

H. G. T.

LOCAL.

It is said that a color-sergeant of the 75th Regiment disappeared yesterday evening in a somewhat mysterious manner, and has not since been heard of. As every color-sergeant has, from his seniority, the charge of the payment of his company, the usual suspicion is engendered.

The Hongkong Amateurs were exceedingly happy in everything connected with their performance, excepting an audience; and even this was unhappy only on the point of numbers, certainly not in the matter of enthusiasm.

"No. 1 Round the Corner" was got through in a very lively manner by Messrs J. M. Leod and Sparkes (*Flippers and Nobblers*), and was evidently enjoyed by all. The burlesque extravaganza "Paris, or Vive l'Empereur," was placed on the stage more carefully, and went off more successfully, than the previous "occasional." "Practice begets perfection," and most likely another repetition would beget something very near it in this instance; certainly the raciness and sprightliness displayed in both the acting and the play of last night were remarked by every one. Even the singing seemed to be more confidently given, and therefore more effective. The audience frequently applauded, and appeared best pleased with the efforts of *Orion* and *Chione*, but all wrought very well together, and therefore deserve equal praise. Some good new local items were introduced in the gymnastic tricks with the weights. Hotel and City Hall Shares being allied with the Stamp Tax, to create a most humorous effect. Governmental departments were also "taken off," with effect by the ladder with a range of steps from "student interpreters" to "colonial secretary. It was almost a pity that the Amateurs were not better supported, though, we believe, they have no reason to complain of the results of the first performance.

A most daring robbery was committed on the Peak Road yesterday evening upon a Chinese servant. It appears that a Chinaman (Mathey) was on his way to the Peak House in the evening, with the rations of the house, when he was set upon by four men, stripped of everything in the shape of clothing, robbed of \$4.10, gagged, and having been pinioned, left lying on his back on the road. Mr. Buckle, R. E. (Acting Assistant Surveyor General), who was returning from duty, found the poor fellow in the miserable plight above described, and released him. The rations, curiously enough, were left untouched, only the money and clothes being stolen. This latter circumstance would seem to imply that the rascals were not common thieves, and it is believed that they are not entirely unknown to the Peak-man.

TO-DAY'S POLICE.

Mr. May on the Bench.
Low Asow, the man charged by Mr. Jarman with the murder of Mr. Holworthy, was brought up and remanded till Friday.

A curious case of speedy and almost clever recovery of stolen property was brought to Mr. May's notice this morning, the facts of which are as follow. Captain Sim, R. E., and Mrs. Sim were at dinner at Mr. Pollard's on the 29th ultimo, after which they all went together to the Amateur Theatrical Performance at the Club Lusitano. Here Mrs. Sim lost a bracelet, or had it stolen from her arm, which was not discovered until they returned home. Of the recovery of the piece of jewellery, Lokong 43 (Ngai Ashing) gave evidence. This energetic Chinaman was this morning serving a notice on a pawnbroker in Queen's Road, when he saw prisoner enter the shop and hold up the bracelet to the pawnbroker, as if offering it for pledge. So soon as prisoner espied the looking, he "made tracks," or rather endeavored to do so, taking the bracelet with him. Lokong pursued and overtook prisoner, and upon asking him from whom he got the jewellery, prisoner stated that he got it from the learned Q. C. On being asked to go to the Station, prisoner at first refused; but was assisted forcibly by the said active policeman—Captain Sim and the value of the bracelet was about \$20. It was a heavy bracelet set with one or two rings of small pearls. Prisoner stated that he was a chair-coach to Mr. Pollard, and had carried his mistress to the theatre on the night in question. He picked up the bracelet after leaving the Theatre, and as nobody saw him do so, he said nothing to anybody about his piece of good luck. Mr. May rewarded this enterprising chair-bearer with three months' hard labor.

The three women and one Chinese doctor, charged with having kidnapped the little boy, respectable parents from West Point, were brought up on remand. Mr. Brereton (for Mr. Caldwell) appeared for the 4th prisoner, the doctor. From the further evidence, on the part of Inspector Grey, a looking and the interpreter, the facts previously depicted to were fully corroborated. Second prisoner took the little boy to the house in Taipingshan, where the first prisoner kept her; and according to the second prisoner, the doctor had told them to take the boy to that house, and then offered to restore the child for a certain sum. Third prisoner (who is one of the German Mission girls) was mixed up in some way by referring to her uncle, the doctor. Mr. Brereton spoke in favor of the doctor and his educated niece. Anything against them was only on the bare word of the second prisoner, who admitted having stolen the boy; and there was consequently no evidence to go to a jury. The first three prisoners made their defence; admitting most of the facts contained for by the prosecution, but putting them in a way which could not make a connected narrative of kidnapping. Each said they knew nothing of the other. First the child, but it had been left there a second left it, but could not again find the child in order to take it home; third only saw it go away from complainant's house with the second prisoner. The prisoners were all committed to the Supreme Court, the doctor's defence being reserved by Mr. Brereton.

A hawk was charged with having stolen a ladle, worth 20 cents, from the shop-window of a cook, and admitted the theft. As he was an experienced hand at petty

thefts, he was sent to hard labor for three months.

A gold-washer was brought up on remand charged on suspicion of having stolen three bags of best grass, valued at \$400, from the Fook-mow-jong shop, during the carriage of the same into boats. Prisoner was convicted and sentenced to three months' imprisonment, mainly on the fact that he attempted to run away when suspicion was directed against him.

An unemployed seaman named Reed was charged as a desultory seaman. He stated that he had come up in the *West Indian*, but was not on the articles. He was sentenced to fourteen days' hard labor, and the case was forwarded to the Harbour Master, who remarked that upon that Reed was "evidently a gentleman who would like to travel and be kept at the public's expense."

Maria Macedo appeared to complain against Leonidia Segura, for assault. It appears that complainant is or was a sub-tenant or lodger with Leonidia, but a quarrel had arisen between them. The hope of contention either was concerning the loss of two petticoats, or the row was intensified by the loss of those articles of wearing apparel. Complainant (who lost the petticoats) was annoyed, and, according to Leonidia, accused the people of the house of being thieves, which, as Leonidia said, was absurd, as she had a superiority of petticoats in stock. The consequence was nevertheless a severe personal encounter; but as defendant was by far the heavier of the two, the issue was certain. Leonidia struck or slapped the unfortunate Maria, then pushed her down, and worst of all quietly sat down upon the fair Maria's stomach. This was deplored by Maria herself and a darker-colored witness named Anna. Leonidia, of course, denied that she had descended so low as to sit upon the stomach of complainant; and produced an amah to prove her accusation, inasmuch as Maria was fawning at her, and drew for the two precious petticoats worth \$1.50. Mr. May said that it was not a nice thing to "sit upon" any one, either metaphorically or literally, and it was not a nice thing for respectable women to appear in Police Court. He would fine Leonidia \$1, and order her to return all the property she had of Maria's. Defendant said she had nothing except two earrings, which she had distrained for rent. His Worship remarked that they had better be returned, as they would only lead to trouble in the Small Debt Court.

SUPREME COURT. CRIMINAL SESSIONS. (Before the Chief Justice.)

April 7, 1869.
The adjourned March Criminal Sessions were resumed this morning, the Judge taking his seat at 10.35. On the Jury being empanelled, the name of Amos Dickens Mitchell was called, but was not answered for obvious reasons. The Jurors were as follow:—Messrs J. Manley, H. Gaupp, Thistled, Ahlmann, Kockmeyer, Mallory, and another.

INMATEL OFFENCE.

Peor Khan (founder) of the Sikh Police Force, Tang Achau (painter), and John Khan (Police Sergeant) were placed in dock and charged with committing an abominable crime. The trial was conducted with closed doors. Mr. Haylar, instructed by Mr. Sharp, defended the prisoners. Colonel Brayerne, of the Indian Army, occupied a seat on the Bench.

The Attorney General prosecuted, and regretted that he was compelled to bring before the Jury the revolting details necessary to a conviction in this case.

Chiefly, the prisoner, was the first witness called. He deposed to the facts of the crime. These were corroborated by further evidence; and at 4.45 p.m. the trial was adjourned until ten o'clock to-morrow, the case for the prosecution being virtually closed.

ADMIRALTY LAW.

(*Mitchell's Maritime Register*, Feb. 13.)
It is not often that a cause of collision tried in the Court of Admiralty presents points of such nicety and difficulty that the two Trinity Masters appointed to assist the Court become equally divided in opinion, and that the Judge deems it necessary to call in a third Trinity Master, and to have the case re-argued before a decision can be arrived at. Such a case has occurred, and is reported amongst our Legal Intelligence this week.

An action had been brought by the brig *Azalea* against the brig *Bella Donna*, to recover for loss resulting from a collision in Lowestoft Roads on the morning of the 7th of December, 1867. It appeared that on the previous evening the *Azalea* had brought up under Lowestoft Ness in a good anchorage, with both anchors down; and she previously to the collision had brought up in the roads by two anchors. The wind was stated at N.N.E. to N.E., blowing hard, and the two vessels rode throughout the night well clear of each other. In the morning, however, the *Bella Donna* was seen to be driving, and she came on down upon the *Azalea*, striking that vessel on the starboard bow, and doing the damage in respect of which the suit was instituted. It was admitted, apparently, on both sides, that there was no question of a foul berth, so that the case was narrowed to a consideration of the position of the *Bella Donna* just previous to the collision, and of the means adopted by the Master of that vessel to avert it. On these points the case of the *Bella Donna* was, that the collision, and shortly before it, the *Bella Donna*'s starboard chain parted close to the hawse-pipe; that she then veered away upon the port chain, which also parted at seventy-five fathoms near the anchor; that the Master of the *Bella Donna* thereupon hoisted his foretopmast stay-sail, hauled his foreward, and endeavored in that way to make his vessel pass astern of the *Azalea*. In this he failed, as we have seen, and a collision resulted. The plaintiffs alleged improper management on the part of the *Bella Donna*, and defective ground tackle. The defendants pleaded inevitable accident. The Court refused to believe that the ground tackle was insufficient, and so the only question that remained was, as to the propriety or impropriety, under the circumstances, of the measures adopted by the Master of the *Bella Donna*. This law as it regards inevitable accident may be regarded as well settled. It has been defined by the exercise of ordinary care, caution, and maritime skill. It is not enough to show that the accident could not be prevented by the party at the very moment it occurred; but the question is, could previous measures have been adopted to render the occurrence of it less prob-

able." Such was the ruling of the Court of Admiralty in the case of the *Melona*, the *Virgil*, and the *Julien Briskin*, referred to in the arguments in the case before us. On this showing of the facts and of the law, the Court eventually decided that neither vessel was to blame in other words, that the collision was due to the parting of the *Bella Donna*'s chain, and to inevitable accident, resulting from the state of the weather. All things considered, we do not question the soundness of this conclusion; but there are one or two points in the case which it need not be wondered at should have occasioned the Trinity Masters some difficulty in reconciling them with the theory of inevitable accident. We have said that the Master of the *Bella Donna*, when he found his chains had parted, immediately hoisted his foretopmast stay-sail, hauled his head-ropes, and made sail on his ship, with the intention of going astern of the *Azalea*. So far well. The *Bella Donna* paid off, and went off to W.S.W., and if she had held to that, she would have cleared the *Azalea*. But the *Bella Donna* came up gradually to N.W., at which point her head appears to have been at the time of the collision. How was this? Why, simply because there were seventy or seventy-five fathoms of chain hanging to the ship, gradually bringing her up, checking her way, and neutralizing the efforts made to clear the other vessel. It is quite clear, that in order to clear the *Bella Donna* the benefit of the manoeuvre adopted by the Master with a view of clearing the *Azalea*, she should, at the time when he ran up his foretopmast stay-sail, and hauled his head-ropes round, have unshackled his port chain and let it go. This was not done, and consequently, as we understand the case, the *Bella Donna*, checked by the dragging chain, was driven by the force of the wind bodily on to the *Azalea*, and so the collision was caused. It may be urged on the other hand, that the Master of the *Bella Donna* was not bound to let go all that remained of his last chain, with a gale of wind setting him on a lee shore, even though he might have buoyed and recovered it. The evidence in this case, however, seems to show that the Master of the *Bella Donna* did not give any consideration to the fact that he had a chain, dragging after him, and checking his way, nor does he seem to have taken account of this impediment to clearing the *Azalea* until he was foul of that vessel. However, the Court, in deciding with the majority of the Trinity Masters that the collision, originated in the parting of the *Bella Donna*'s chain, arrived at an unimpeachable conclusion. So far there can be no mistake, and no room for controversy. Whether Nautical men would agree that the management of the *Bella Donna* afterwards, in view of a probable collision, was good seamanship, may fairly be open to question; we cannot wonder that the Trinity Masters should have had their doubts—and, apparently, grave doubts—on the subject.

VOLTAIRE'S DEATH-BED.

(*Pell Mail Gazette*, Feb. 5.)

A new document has just been published at Paris, bearing on one of the most contested subjects in literary history—the death of Voltaire. In the *Journal des Debats* of Saturday last, M. H. Taine, the author of the "Histoire de la Littérature Anglaise" has given to the world a new and contemporary account of the death of the great Frenchman. This account was forwarded to M. Taine by M. Schuyler, the American Consul at Moscow, who discovered, among the Russian archives, a letter originally sent by Prince Ivan Bariatinsky, the Russian Ambassador at Paris, at the time of Voltaire's death. The Ambassador says, "Knowing that your Imperial Majesty takes a deep interest in all that concerns this great man, I have had prepared for your Majesty the following account of the death of Voltaire, by one of my friends who was well acquainted with all the details." The narrative is not signed; from internal evidence M. Taine judges it to have been written by a doctor. "At all the events," he says, "it is perfectly authentic and of great interest." The whole account is a long one, and fills more than three columns of the *Debats*, and we can only give here a few extracts which appear to throw new light on the circumstances attending Voltaire's death.

We omit the first part of the despatch, in which the writer states what was already known, viz. that Voltaire hastened his death by an overdose of opium which he took to alleviate the violent pains brought on by his abuse of coffee. The most important part of the new account is that relating to the last moments of Voltaire, and the difficulties with which his burial was attended. Voltaire, as we know already, had, at the desire of his relatives, who were anxious that he should have a Christian burial, confessed himself and made a sort of recantation, said to have been in the following terms by the Russian despatcher: "I disavow, certify and protest that I disbelieve in the Catholic, Roman, and Apostolic Church. If it has happened that I have caused scandal, by my works, to the Church and to religion, I ask God's pardon for it, hoping that in his goodness he will vouchsafe to pardon my faults." Nothing could well be more vague; there is not word of belief, nor even a denial of his errors, and it is not wonder the priests were but half satisfied. On Saturday, the 30th of May, 1778, all hope of his recovery being abandoned, Voltaire's nephew, the Abbé Mignot, sent for the cure of Saint Sulpice, the parish in which Voltaire lay dying, and for the Abbé Gautier, to whom the aforesaid confession had been made two months before. We continue in the words of the new account—

"These two priests came to M. de Voltaire's house; he was then in a state of languor; exhaustion, and stupor, quite frightful. He was, too, extremely weak from pain and from the want of nourishment, his stomach being no longer able to retain any food. When the two priests entered M. de Voltaire's chamber, they found there M. — and M. — both of them friends of M. de Voltaire. These gentlemen asked the cure if their presence would be objectionable (*de trop*) at so late a time. The cure replied no. Then the arrival of the cure was announced to M. de Voltaire. The first time he appeared not to have heard. On being told a second time, he replied, 'Tell him I respect him,' and he passed his arm round the cure, to mark his attachment. Then the cure came nearer to the bed, and, after having spoken of God, of death, and of the sick man's approaching end, he asked in a pretty loud voice (*d'une voix assez haute*), 'Monsieur, do you recognize the divinity of Jesus

Christ?' Thereupon M. de Voltaire seemed to collect all his strength, made an effort to sit up, quitted brusquely the cure, whom he had held almost in his embrace, and using the same arm which he had thrown round the cure's neck, he made a gesture of anger, and, appearing to repulse the fatalist priest, he said, in a strongly marked voice, 'Let me die in peace,' and at once turned his back on the cure. The latter, turning to those present, said with a readiness which no one would have expected from one whose head was so strangely troubled by superstition, 'Gentlemen, you see he is not in his right mind (*qu'il n'a pas sa tête*). He asked for paper and pen, and wrote a permission to carry the body of M. de Voltaire wherever it might be desired, and in the same writing declared that he 'abandoned' it. [M. Taine explains in a note that by the use of this term he meant to deprive it of all rights of Christian burial.] The Abbé Gautier, the confessor of M. de Voltaire, signed a sort of certificate of confession, and the two priests retired. This took place between six and seven in the evening. Soon after M. de Voltaire called for one of his old servants, took him by the hand, and wished him good-bye, and added, in a very distinct voice, 'Take care of Maria; (he was accustomed to call Madame Dony, his niece) by this name.' These were the last words he uttered. He died the same night at a quarter of eleven o'clock, amidst the tears and sincere regrets of all his friends."

His body, after being embalmed, was carried to the abbey of Calciere, of which M. Mignot, his nephew, was then abbot. The body, when laid in the grave, was covered with two feet of quicklime. This is narrated by the Russian despatch on the evidence of an eye-witness, who happened to be at Calciere at the time of the burial. The writer of the despatch concludes by saying— "You may rely on the accuracy of these facts; I have them from M. —, an intimate friend of M. de Voltaire, and who did not quit him for an instant throughout his illness. I owe also several particulars to my friend M. —, who saw M. de Voltaire three or four times a day, and took care to have accurate information of all that happened during this sad time."

THE DISTRIBUTION OF GOLD.

(*From the Quarterly Journal of Science*.)

More than twenty years ago Sir Roderick Murchison made a great stride in advance of other geologists by showing that in certain cases the mineral riches of distant lands may be predicted by means of geological data. In the year 1844, having recently returned from the auriferous Ural Mountains, he examined a collection of rocks from Australia, and from their similarity with those occurring in the Russian range, he expressed his surprise that gold had not been detected in the Australian "Cordillera." The fact that gold had been detected (the discovery being then unknown in Europe) is the strongest possible proof of Sir Roderick's induction being, in a scientific sense, a real discovery; while the memoirs which he published on the subject, in the years 1844—46, testify that his comparison of the two regions was not a mere haphazard surmise, but the result of a scientific comparison of the rocks, and the earnest belief of a geologist in the method and principles of his science. The "principles" as to the distribution of gold in the earth's crust, upon which Sir Roderick then relied, have since undergone some alteration, but only to show that gold is somewhat more widely distributed than was at that time supposed. In place of the lower silurian deposits being the only matrix in which gold was found *in situ*, which was Sir Roderick's original induction, we now know that they are but the chief repositories of the precious metal. No one, however, acknowledges this extension of our knowledge of the possible sources of gold more freely than the author of "Siluria," and as the subject is one of great economic importance we quote, *in extenso*, his most recent conclusions (p. 472)—

"1. That looking to the world at large, the auriferous veins in the lower silurian rocks contain the greatest quantity of gold.

"2. That where certain igneous eruptions penetrate the secondary deposits, the latter have been rendered auriferous to a limited distance only beyond the junction of the two rocks.

"3. That the general axiom before insisted upon remains—that all secondary and tertiary deposits (except the auriferous detritus in the latter), not so especially affected, never contain gold.

"4. That as no unaltered purely aqueous sediment contains gold, the argument in favor of the igneous origin of that metal is prodigiously strengthened; or, in other words, that the granites and dykes have been the chief gold producers; and that the auriferous quartz-bands in the paleozoic rocks are also the result of heat and chemical agency."

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

(*Spectator*, Feb. 13.)

The Irish bishops do not seem to grow wiser. After receiving the refusal of the Government to allow the old Irish Convocation to meet at the present juncture, they have with one dissentient, the Bishop of Down and Connor, put forth a document declaring, indeed, their wish to co-operate with the laity, but paying the laity so little respect that they do not wait for their opinion, but declare flatly that they have no right to regard the threatened changes as inevitable, and "are bound to protect against and resist them." They, their warmly expressed wish to co-operate with the laity can only mean to co-operate with them provided always that they (the laity) shall agree with the bishops in feeling "bound to protect against and resist" the coming changes. The Bishops are not even as polite as the Scotch girl in the song; she did promise an equivalent for agreeable counsel—

"Come, counsel, dear Titty, don't tarry,
I'll give you my bonny black hen
Gin you will advise me wery
The man I loe dearly, Tam Glen."

but the Bishops don't offer the laity anything for giving their agreeable counsel; on the contrary, they expect the laity to give their pleasant advice and pecuniary subsidies as well. The Bishop of Down and Connor has at least the merit of seeing and saying that this is inequitable.

The cotton manufacturers of Normandy have drawn up a petition entreating the Emperor to give notice of the expiration of the Treaty with England, and to return to the tariffs which can alone restore their lost property. They say they are ruined by the treaty. England finds a new market in France, while they are underworked. Never, they say, were so many stoppages known, and they point to the tariffs of the

United States as the cause of its prosperity. These gentlemen do not see that if, as they say, free trade benefits England so much, it must also of necessity benefit them, or explain how it happens that the Treaty has so greatly increased the total trade of France, and especially the wine trade of the South. It is curious that just while they are complaining of being underworked by England, Manchester should be complaining of being underworked by France. The truth is, we believe, that in both countries there is more capital employed in the cotton manufacture than is needed. People won't buy calico at any price unless they want it, and if one and a half yard is produced where one yard is wanted, prices must fall below the level of profit.

A paper was read on Monday, Feb. 8, by Mr. Cooke Taylor, before the Economical Department of the Social Science Association, on the admission of women into the Civil Service. Mr. Taylor, like all the advocates of that side, made his suggestion seem ridiculous by arguing that female civilians with child might obtain leave as men do, when they are sick, forgetting that children should be suckled, and must be watched over by their mothers;—but his main point was found, that offices to which women are competent, should be as open to them as to men, that legal restrictions on employment should be removed. They make excellent telegraph clerks, for example, and would do the work of post-offices, perhaps, rather better than men, while their capacity in the department of education has been conclusively proved in America. That they would lower men's wages is probable, but then every needless penny paid by the State for work not more efficient is a burden on the taxpayer.

The *Times* devotes two and a half pages of its space to an analysis of the accounts of London Charities, drawn up by Mr. G. M. Hicks. The account, which is exclusive of the revenues of the great endowment Hospitals, shows that £2,040,897 is spent in London on different charities, and of this sum a quarter is spent on "plant,"—furniture, stationery, and salaries,—an amount on which an immense saving might be made by judicious combination. It must be remembered, however, that although many charities, such as small hospitals, appear to be absurdly multiplied, dispersion is one element in their usefulness, and that although the salaries of officials are numerous, it is not certain that the revenue would be raised without them. The harvest is gathered up in West London, in particular, with a fine rake indeed. There are streets of houses where the applications for aid average more than one a day, and where officials call at least twice a week.

Has Mr. Reverdy Johnson any malicious desire to prevent the success of his own Convention? If not, he really is a very unwise person, for speeches better calculated to induce the American Senate to refuse its sanction to this convention would scarcely conceive, than those he has lately been delivering in England. Take that at Glasgow on Wednesday. No doubt he did criticize sharply the negligence of the English Government in permitting the escape of the *Alabama*, and he hinted at the recognition of the belligerency of the South was unnecessary. But he went on to express his delight at our honorable conduct in according to arbitration, and to declare that his Government had not sent him to Great Britain to make any demand which would "trench a hair's breadth on the honour of England." "The honour of England is as done," he said, "to every true native American, to every true naturalized Scotchman, to every true naturalized Welshman, and to almost all naturalized Irishmen,—not to all,—as it is to you." And Mr. Reverdy Johnson went on to predict that if over the shores of England, were invaded, if the flag of America were not raised by the side of England, America would be with us "in spirit," &c. That is all adequately amiable, but frightfully un-diplomatic. If the Americans wish anything now, they wish to maintain an attitude of studied coldness and reserve towards England; and Mr. Reverdy Johnson goes about blessing us with an effusion which is certainly admirably calculated to jar on the nerves of Americans, and induce the Senate to unravel the web of his diplomacy.

Australian meat seems at last to be arriving in England in large quantities. It was stated at a dinner given to about 200 gentlemen by the Messrs MacCall, that the Australian Meat Company had in 1867-68 exported 1,164,970 lb. of beef preserved by enclosures in hermetically sealed tins, exhausted of air. This beef is sold at 7d. per lb. without bone, equivalent to 5d. per lb., and is said to be perfectly fresh and good, though it comes over nearly cooked. The Company is now trying mutton, and we see has opened an establishment in the Strand. Every attempt of the kind deserves encouragement; but those who make them should rely a little more on quantity and a little less on price for profit, and remember that a good article in universal demand will always sell in London without diners in its praise. The butchers must be beaten, if they are beaten at all, by men who sell good meat cheap at a profit, without talking so much of the necessities of the poor, who can no more pay 7d. a lb. than 10d.

COMPARISONS.—The *Boston (U.S.) Advertiser* says:—"A noted democratic politician of this vicinity was once asserting his entire indifference to the opinions of his opponents, and to their personal abuse. 'Why,' said he, 'a man likened me the other day to Judas Iscariot, but I don't care.' 'Yes,' said a bystander, 'but how does Judas feel about it?'"

A NEW VESSEL FOR CHINA.—[If steering comparisons have often been made between the Seine at the Pont Neuf and the Thames at London Bridge, what will be the surprise of the detractors of the former river on learning that a three-masted vessel is at present lying off the Tuileries, and dividing popular attention with the *Dauphine Gras*. A barge of about 300 tons has come from Bordeaux, having taken a month in ascending the Seine, a delay in a great measure due to the floating ice which impeded her progress. The hull presents several peculiarities of construction, the false keel being removable in shallow water, whilst the masts can be laid flat with the deck, as in the Thames barges, so as to pass beneath bridges. She is destined for the Chinese trade, and is taking in a cargo of articles de Paris.

THE difference between Eugenie and the deposed Queen of Spain is that one is a belle on a throne, and the other Isabelle off. "What a pity it is," said a lady to Garlick, "that you are not taller." "I should be happy indeed, madam," replied Garlick, "to be higher in your estimation."

Intimations.

Intimations.

NOTICE.

DOCUMENTS Translated, at reasonable rates, from English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese or German into Chinese, or from Chinese into English. Address, The "China Mail" Office, 2, Wyndham Street, Hongkong.

NOTIFICATION.

THE TEA TRADE AT CANTON.

HE following Notification has been issued by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Canton:—

Notification
No. 2.

BRITISH CONSULATE,
CANTON, February 26, 1869.

Representations having been made to the undersigned with reference to the difficulties experienced in obtaining the

ment of contracts through the failure of the Teamen and Brokers to supply Tea in bulk according to the muster upon which they were purchased, he brought the matter, in conjunction with the Consul for the United States, before the Chinese authorities, with a view to devising some mode by which the evil complained of might be remedied. It is obvious that the remedy lay to a great extent in the hands of the purchasers themselves, by the refusal of the teas if they were inferior to the samples; and difficulties interpose in following this

ures, such as Tonnage having been en-
gaged, advices having gone forward, and
others unnecessary to mention. Moreover,
the rejection of a chop was little likely
cause loss or damage to the Teaman ow-
ing to market fluctuations, no unwilling-
ness was felt on his part to such a result;
in fact, it was an encouragement to fraudu-
lent practices. The undersigned was there-
fore of opinion that compelling the fulfil-
ment of contracts or enforcing what is
termed an "equitable cut" for inferior
quality, were necessary measures, if trade

10-06 conducted on anything like a
and basis; he therefore directed his at-
tention to devising a mode of arbitration or
proceeding by means of which the expenses
and delay of a Chinese court of law might
be avoided. It is not worth while to detail
the particulars of the proposition he made,
after long negotiations, it was rejected
by the Tea guild, who met it by a counter
proposition that if Tea when delivered was
found equal to muster, it should be rejected.
Seeing that no amicable arrangement could
be arrived at, the undersigned, in conjunc-
tion with the Consul for the United States

requested the Chinese authorities to notify the Teamen, brokers, and others, that the utmost rigour of the law would be enforced in all cases of fraudulent practices, and he hopes that the Proclamation which has been issued accordingly, a copy of the translation of which is annexed, will have the effect intended, by showing the parties against whom it is directed that they will escape with impunity from the consequences of their misdeeds.

(Signed) D. B. ROBERTSON,
Consul.

proclamation by CHEN, Magistrate of the
Pwangu District, and YANG, Magistrate of
the Pwangu District :—
We have received instructions from his
Excellency the Financial Commissioner, embo-
died in orders from his Excellency the Vice-
roy in tenor as follow :—
The Viceroy received a communication
from the 20th August last from the British
Consul, Mr Robertson, to the effect that he
had been addressed by the British mer-
chants at Canton with reference to the great
and detrimental to their trade caused by
inferior qualities of the Tea supplied

the Teamen, notwithstanding their com-
pacts to deliver Teas according to muster.
The practice appears to be that the Tea-
kers take round samples of Teas, and
merchants after inspecting and tasting
their qualities and arranging for the price
to be paid for the chop, with the weight in
tuns and the time of delivery, engage ton-
nage by vessels proceeding to England ;
when the Teas agree to arrive in
London, they are found on inspection to be
only far inferior in quality to the sam-
ple supplied, but largely mixed with what

This has now become the regular practice, and it is necessary that some measures should be taken to put an end to the frauds which are thus perpetrated. He therefore urges that measures be devised to this end in view, etc., etc. The U. S. Consul, Mr King, has also made a similar representation. On receipt of the foregoing Viceroy orders that a notification be to the Tea dealers with injunctions to aid upon them for their obedience."

we instructions, have to issue a notification in pursuance of their tenor; and we therefore accordingly proclaim for the protection of all members of the Tea trade, that it is an obvious duty to make honesty and good faith the guiding principle of commerce with foreign merchants, that to cherish fraudulent designs can in no wise be permitted. They should, moreover, bear in mind that the bulk of the Tea export has been confined of late years to the ports of Fukien, whilst the local trade amongst teas itself has at the same time

lished in an unusual degree. If fraudulent practices in the way of false packing further persisted in, not only will those guilty of such acts be liable to prosecution, but they will thus incur the danger of arrest and of loss for compensation, but the traders will continue to fall off daily, and the possibility of gain to the trader will be more remote. It is not difficult to arrive on which side the real interest of the dealer actually lies. After the issue of Notification, if the traders referred to do amend their ways, and still continue to trade, the market will be better.

ing in fraudulent practices, on com-
being lodged by foreign merchants,
shall not only be required to make
denunciation, but shall further be visited
severe punishment, under the statute
assimilating the offence of obtaining
under false pretences with the crime
robbery. Be ye careful, therefore, not
sober, and thus to involve yourselves
punishable. Let all tremblingly obey. A
al Proclamation,
ated February 22nd, 1869,
Translated by
W. H. M. M. M.

Printed & Published by CHARLES ABRAHAM
Printer, Proprietor, at No. 2, Wyndham
Street, Victoria, Hongkong.

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at Noon

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the 7th May, the P

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General Post Office

Age Group	Should Take More Action (%)
18-29	85
30-49	75
50-69	65
70+	55

5.

Insurances.

NOTICE.
GUARDIAN ASSURANCE CO
OF LONDON.
ESTABLISHED 1821.
CAPITAL £2,000,000.

THE Undersigned having been a
Agents of the above Comp
Hongkong and Canton are prep
grant Policies at current

HONGKONG, JULY 17, 1868.
 NOTICE.
 ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
 THE following Rates will be charged for future for short period Insurances:—
 Not exceeding One Month, 1 per cent.
 Above One Month and not exceeding Three Months, 1 per cent.
 Above Three Months and not exceeding Six Months, 2 per cent.
 Above Six Months, The full Annual Rate of 1 per cent.
 ROB. S. WALKER & Co.
 Agents Royal Insurance Company
 Hongkong, April 7, 1868.

REDUCTION
IN THE RATES OF PREMIUM FOR
FIRE INSURANCE.

THE Undersigned have (as already stated in their Circular dated 14th October last) received authority from the Secretary of the ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY to Reduce the rate of Premium under certain circumstances, on FIRE RESIDENCES and on FURNITURE and EFFECTS, therein contained.

In cases of DWELLING-HOUSES, ranging from the Town, the rate of Premium will be Three-quarters per Cent. in place of one per Cent. per Annum as hitherto charged; and in cases of Residences, so situated as to be detached or semi-detached, the rate will be further reduced to One-half per Cent.

The Royal's Annual Rates for FIRE INSURANCE on the various classes of Buildings and their contents will therefore remain as follows, until further notice, viz.:

Detached and semi-detached Dwelling-Houses (removed from the Town) and their Contents. 1 per Cent.

Other Dwelling-Houses (nearly situated) and their Contents. 1 per Cent.

First Class China House and their Contents. 1½ per Cent.

Other Risks as per special arrangement.

ROR 38 173

THE OVERSEA-CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED
Agents Royal Insurance Company
Hongkong, November 9, 1866.

PACIFIC INSURANCE COMPANY
SAN FRANCISCO.

THE Undersigned, Agents for the
Company are prepared to grant
Policies against FIRE, on BUILDINGS
GOODS, at current rates.

RUSSELL & CO.
Hongkong, February 6, 1867.

BATAVIA SEA & FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY.

THE Undersigned having been appointed
Agents in Hongkong for the above
named COMPANY are prepared to grant
Policies against SEA RISKS, at current rates.

RUSSELL & CO.
Hongkong, April 1, 1866.

YANG-TSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF SHANGHAI.

THE Undersigned having been appointed
Secretaries and Agents of this Association,
are prepared to issue Policies against
Marine Risks at current rates of premium.
Policies can be made payable in London,
New York, Bombay, Calcutta, Singapore,
Hongkong, Poochoo and Shanghai.

In addition to the usual brokerage
association allows of the assured of
the sum of the close of each current
year (1866) to the sum of 100,000

amount of premium paid by each
 policyholder.
 RUSSELL & CO
 Hongkong, March 2, 1867.
 THE PACIFIC INSURANCE COMPANY
 OF SAN FRANCISCO.
 THE Undersigned having been appointed
 Agents in China for the above named
 Insurance Company are prepared to grant
 Policies covering Marine Risks, at the current
 rates.
 RUSSELL & CO
 Hongkong, July 6, 1866.
 THE SAMARANJ SEA AND
 FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
 OF SAMARANG.
 THE Undersigned having been appointed
 Agents in Macao for the above named
 Insurance Company are prepared to grant Policies
 covering Marine Risks at the current Rates.
 RUSSELL & CO
 Macao, August 4, 1866.
 DE OOSTERLING
 THE SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COM-
 PANY OF BATAVIA.
 THE SAMARANJ SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE
 COMPANY OF SAMARANG.
 THE Undersigned having been appointed
 Agents in Hongkong for the above
 named Insurance Companies are prepared to
 grant Policies covering Marine Risks at the
 current Rates.
 RUSSELL & CO
 Hongkong, July 6, 1866.

NOTICE.

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY
FROM and after this date the following
Rates will be charged for Short Period
Rates:—

exceeding one month,.....	1/2	% of the Annual rate
" " " " " "	1/2	" " " " " "
not exceeding one month,.....	1/2	" " " " " "
" " " " " "	1/2	" " " " " "
re 3 months,.....	1/2	" " " " " "
not exceeding one month,.....	1/2	" " " " " "
re 6 months,....	3/4	% of the full annual rate
re 6 months,....	3/4	% of the full annual rate

TURNER & Co.
Agents,

Hongkong, April 19, 1866.

Miscellaneous.

Hongkong, April